RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 25th February, 2009/Phalguna 6, 1930 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*121. [The questioner (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 26 *infra*.]

Bomb blasts and terrorist activities in the country

*122. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:††

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of bomb blasts and terrorist activities that took place in the country between 1st January, 2008 to 31st January, 2009, State-wise and incident-wise separately;

(b) the details of the persons killed and injured, State-wise;

(c) the *ex-gratia* payment made to them, State and incident-wise; and

(d) the action taken during the said period to strengthen the security of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Apart from violence in the areas affected by militancy, insurgency and extremist activities, *viz.*, Jammu and Kashmir, some of the North-Eastern States and some States affected by naxalite activities, terrorist attacks and incidents have also occurred in various parts of the country between 1st January, 2008 and 31st January, 2009. Based on available information, a statement showing major incidents of terrorist attacks including bomb blasts that have occurred in the above period in some parts of the hinterland in the country, alongwith number of persons including security personnel killed and number of persons injured is given below:—

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nand Kishore Yadav

Sl. No.	Date	Incident	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
1.	1.1.2008	Attack on CRPF Group Centre, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh	8	5
2.	13.5.2008	Serial bomb blasts in Jaipur	69	184
3.	25.7.2008	Serial bomb blasts in Bangalore	1	11
4.	26.7.2008	Serial bomb blasts in Ahmedabad	56	242
5.	13.9.2008	Serial bomb blasts in Delhi	26	133
6.	27.9.2008	Low intensity bomb blast in Mehrauli, New Delhi	3	22
7.	29.9.2008	Bomb blasts at Malegaon, Maharashtra	4	80
8.	29.9.2008	Bomb blasts in Modassa, Gujarat	1	10
9.	01.10.2008	4 low intensity bombs exploded at different places in East and West Agartala, Tripura	00	75
10.	21.10.2008	Explosion at the outside gate of Police Commando Complex at Ragailong Bazar in Imphal West District	15	31
11.	30.10.2008	9 serial blasts in Guwahati, Kokrajhar, Barpeta Road and Bongaigaon in Assam	89	477
12.	26-29.11.2008	Terrorist attacks in Mumbai	164	308
13.	01.01.2009	3 blasts in Guwahati	7	69

As per available information, in the attack on CRPF Group Centre, Rampur, 7 security personnel were killed out of the 8 persons killed; in the bomb blasts in Jaipur, 3 security personnel were killed out of the 69 persons killed and in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, 18 security personnel were killed out of the 164 persons killed.

(c) *Ex-gratia* relief and assistance is generally announced by the State Governments to victims of terrorist violence. The details of such *ex-gratia* paid in all cases of terrorist/extremist/ naxal violence are not centrally compiled and maintained.

The Central Government, however, reimburses to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and naxal affected States towards expenditure incurred by them for this purpose as per the extant policy of the Government. The Central Government has also launched a scheme in 2008 towards this end. The broad aim of the scheme is to assist victims of terrorist and communal violence. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 3 lac is admissible to the family member (s) in the event of death or permanent incapacitation of the breadwinner/ householder of the family. The scheme also provides for a health card to be given by the District

Health Society, functioning under the National Rural Health Mission to those permanently incapacitated, to entitle them to free medical treatment in respect to injuries due to violence.

(d) The Government has been pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to deal with terrorism, and a variety of measures have been taken to strengthen the security arrangements in this context. These, *inter-alia*, include assistance to the State Governments under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF) for strengthening police related infrastructure, equipments, weaponry, mobility, training and strengthening of the State Intelligence machinery; assistance for raising India Reserve Battalions (with provision for raising 2 Coys as Commando Units); reimbursement of various types of security expenditure incurred by the State Governments under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme; deployment of Central Para-Military Forces to aid and assist the State Police to deal with specific situations; sharing of intelligence and operational coordination with the State Governments in this regard, etc. In addition, several measures have been taken at the Central level for strengthening the internal security apparatus. These, *inter-alia*, include; substantial expansion of the Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) in the recent years, including a decision to raise 10 Specialised Command Battalions in the CRPF, along with action for modernization of the CPMFs; substantial augmentation and strengthening of the intelligence machinery by sanction of additional posts and strengthening of institutional mechanisms for sharing of intelligence and operational coordination with the States; construction of roads and fencing, with flood lighting, on the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders, together with provision of modern surveillance equipment; with a view to checking infiltration smuggling and other illegal cross border activities; launching of scheme for coastal security under which assistance is being provided to the States for setting up Police Stations and boats, jeeps and motorcycles for sea and land patrolling; and, steps for expanding the infrastructure for general and specialized training for the State police personnel, including action for setting up 20 Counter-Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism Schools. A decision has also been taken to establish 4 NSG Hubs in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai with a view to enabling speedy movement to the affected area in the event of emergency. Towards the end the Government/NSG have also been given powers to requisition Civil aircraft in case of need.

Apart from the above, the Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enacted with a view to strengthening the legal framework for dealing with terrorist activities. The National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 has also been passed and the National Investigation Agency has been constituted to investigate and prosecute certain types of offences relating to legislations included in the Schedule to the Act. An Ordinance has also been issued enabling the deployment of CISF in Joint sector/Private sector units keeping in view of their criticality from the security angle.

The security arrangements to deal with various internal security challenges, including terrorism, are being continuously reviewed with a view to taking action for further strengthening and streamlining, etc., as found necessary, from time to time.

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: सर, देश के अन्दर आतंकवादी घटना न घटे, इसकी जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार, दोनों की है। आतंकवादी घटना घटित होने पर राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारियों से बचने का प्रयास करती हैं। राज्य और केन्द्र की खुफिया एजेंसियों और सुरक्षा बलों में आपसी तालमेल का अभाव रहता है और वे एक-दूसरे पर दोषारोपण करने का काम करती हैं। आतंकवादी घटना के घटित होने पर...

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: सर, मैं सवाल पर आ रहा हूँ। आतंकवादी घटना के घटित होने पर पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियाँ कुछ दिनों तक तो सक्रिय रहती हैं, लेकिन जैसे ही घटना पुरानी हो जाती है...

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल क्या है?

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: वे शिथिल हो जाती हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि देश में आम आदमी की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने हेतु इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या प्रभावी कदम उठा रही है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have, on many occasions, listed the steps that we have taken. In fact, at the end of every month I made a public report on the measures taken during that month. In fact, the statement before the House is a very long statement running almost three-and-a-half pages which lists the very measures. Therefore, in answer to the supplementary I don't think that I am expected to read out the answer once again. If there is a pointed question, I am certainly willing to answer that. All the steps that we have taken, especially, in the last three months are, in fact, listed in the three-and-a-half page answer.

श्री सभापति: आप दूसरा सवाल पूछिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: सर, आज देश में हवाई मार्ग, समुद्री मार्ग और जो हमारी सीमाएँ हैं, उनसे आतंकवादी आ रहे हैं और तस्करी हो रही है। हमने माननीय मंत्री जी से यह सवाल पूछा था। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बड़ा विस्तृत जवाब दिया है कि जो हमारी सीमाएँ हैं, उन पर हम रोशनी करने का काम कर रहे हैं, सड़कों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं और कुछ इंतजाम करने की बात इन्होंने कही है। लेकिन यह कार्य तो पहले से चल रहा है। उसके बाद भी इस देश के अन्दर इन सीमाओं से और दूसरे रास्ते से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आतंकवादियों और तस्करी करने वाले लोगों का प्रवेश हो रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए सरकार और कौन-सा प्रभावी कदम उठाने जा रही है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think, we should make a distinction between terrorist threats, infiltration by terrorists and other illegal activities like smuggling currency, etc. This question concerns terrorist threats. I have said repeatedly that India faces terrorist threats. Given our geographical situation and the context in which we find ourselves in South-East Asia, we are facing terrorist threats. The answer, in my respectful submission, is (1) to maintain a high level of preparedness, and (2) to respond to any terrorist threat or attack in a firm, deterrent and decisive manner. The steps that we have taken since I assumed office are intended to raise the level of preparedness of our security forces and to become more effective in our response to a terrorist threat or attack. We have taken a number of measures to improve coastal security, to improve land border security and, of course, to improve the security for air space. Many of these have been made public, especially, in the statement that I have issued at the end of every

month. My third report to the nation will be made on the 27th of February. I can say with a fair degree of assurance that the level of preparedness of the Indian security system today is much higher than what it was three months ago. I can also say with a fair degree of certainty that in the event of a terrorist threat or terrorist attack our response will be extremely swift and determined.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister stating therein what measures the Government has taken to contain terrorism. I have only one question to put to the hon. Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has studied the reasons for no further attacks on the United States of America after the attack on the Twin Towers. In the case of Israel, they have also taken such measures whereby further attacks have been avoided. Has the Government gone into these issues? I would also like to know whether the measures which were taken in the USA and Israel are being taken in our country.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for putting this question. Yes, we have studied the measures taken by the United States after the September 11 attack. Of course, the United States being a wealthier and richer country, has spent billions of dollars for putting together a very effective counter-intelligence and counter-terrorist apparatus and brought it under the Department of Homeland Security. A team from India was invited to visit there. A team did visit the United States and studied their National Centre for Counter Terrorism. The team has come back. We have taken whatever elements are relevant and germane to the Indian situation. Notwithstanding some financial constraints, we have tried to replicate the NCCT through our MAC which is now the nodal centre for counter terrorism. We should spend some more money. But more money has been made available in 2009-10. We are also working with some other security agencies of other countries and Israel is one of them. But Israel is not the only one, there are other countries which have offered to work with us and we are working with them. In this context, I would like to mention the United Kingdom and Germany also. We are learning every day. I can say with some humility that we are improving every day. But there is still some distance to go. I think by the 31st of March, connectivity between MAC, the subsidiary-MAC and the Special Branch of the Police will be established. Data Centres will be established by May, 2009. If everyone cooperates and supports the Government, as I am getting it today from the State Governments, we will be better placed, say by March than we are today; we will be better placed in May than we will be in March. These are steps which have to be taken every month, every week. I am confident that our level of preparedness will improve as every week passes by.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the information given by the hon. Minister in his reply, the number of persons killed in bomb blasts in Ahmedabad — 56 persons, in Delhi — 26 persons, in Guwahati — 89 persons and in Mumbai — 164 persons. In these four States, major blasts took place. Would the Government tell as to who are behind these blasts, at least, in these four major States? So far as Mumbai is concerned, we have

already got the information. I would like to know about other places. I have also come to know that the latest weapons are not available with the security people and the police in States. The Central Government says it is a State subject. The State Governments say that they don't have funds and, therefore, they are not able to provide the latest weapons. Are you planning to see that a Special Wing is created in every State? The Centre must make special efforts to monitor the situation in order to face the probable threats. I would also like to know what information the hon. Minister would like to share with the House in regard to the four major blasts that took place between July and December, 2009. A large number of people were killed and several were injured in these blasts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This question had sought information for the period from 1st January, 2008 to 31st January, 2009, and, therefore, these incidents have been given. The five major blasts that took place in 2008 were at Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Assam and Mumbai. Each one of these cases is under investigation. Many have been arrested, and there are many wanted-accused. Today, I believe, the Mumbai Police will file the charge sheet on the Mumbai attacks. I think it is a fairly watertight charge sheet, and I impressed upon them to start the trial very quickly. ...*(Interruptions)*... Assam is also under investigation, but it is with the CBI. The Assam blast's investigation, as you know, following your request and other requests, has been handed over to the CBI. Therefore, each of these cases is under investigation. Delhi, for example, is in a very advanced stage. Charge sheets have been filed, and the supplementary charge sheet will be filed on the 27th February. I am, personally, monitoring each of these cases. There are different accused in each of these cases. Now, the question as to whether there was a mastermind behind these different attacks, this will have to be brought out in the investigation. ...*(Interruptions)*... As regards Malegaon blasts, there are two Malegaon incidents, one in 2006 and the other in 2008. On the Malegaon, 2008, incident, the charge sheet has been filed; so also on Malegaon, 2006, the charge sheet has been filed. There are wanted accused who have not been arrested and several accused have been arrested. I am fully familiar with each of these cases. Trust me, I am monitoring them first-hand. As far as weapons are concerned, that is not correct. Weapons are being issued; we are issuing AK-47, INSAS, MP-5, MP-9. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am visiting each State, and I am reviewing the security situation. I have so far visited Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Kerala, and I intend to visit the remaining States in March, after the Parliament Session is over. I am sitting with the Chief Minister, Home Minister and the State Police, reviewing their entire security requirements and taking a decision at that meeting. The decisions are recorded, and the decisions are being implemented. As I said, it is a long drawn out effort. But with every day, I am confident, our preparedness is better, and our response will be swifter.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my supplementary is slightly different...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has to follow from the main question.

SHRI D. RAJA: Yes, Sir. Due to increasing collaboration between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, particularly, in arms trade, the ISI has become very active in the Southern part, and there are reports of suspicion that the ISI could use the sea route to target the South Coast. In fact, there are some reports that some cadres of the ISI are using Sri Lankan passports to enter into Tamil Nadu. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of any such thing. If so, what has the Government done so far and what is the Government intending to do?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are aware that the ISI has a rather long arm, and it can reach out to other parts of South Asia. Our coastal vigilance in the Coast of Tamil Nadu and the Coast of Kerala has been significantly strengthened in the last couple of months. We have strengthened our Central Intelligence and we have asked the State Governments to strengthen the State Intelligence. They have been strengthened. All applicants for visas holding Sri Lankan passports are subject to the greatest scrutiny today. There is no specific report today of any ISI agent or ISI-instigated agent attempting to infiltrate into India. But I do not rule that out. All I can say is that eternal vigilance is a price of liberty. We are vigilant. The slightest information or the smallest intelligence is immediately acted upon. A very different system of acting on intelligence has been put in place. I will do my best to ensure that no ISI agent or ISI-instigated agent sneaks into India from the southern coast. The State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are fully cooperating with us. When I visited Kerala, I impressed upon the State Government to strengthen their intelligence particularly. We are helping them in a big way. I am reasonably confident that we can thwart any such threat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 123.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, ...

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: सभापति महोदय। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 123. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. Three supplementaries, and no more.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is related to sovereignty...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not agitate all the time. ...*(Interruptions)*... You ask for it through the established procedures.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is related to the State of Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You ask for a discussion. We will consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is very much related to the sovereignty of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Kindly allow me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to raise a discussion, please ask for it. We will deal with it.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, when we are discussing this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why can't you allow me, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*... One question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, not.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is related to the sovereignty...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are simply denying your colleagues the right to deal with the next question. Why do you want to do it? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid, I cannot violate the rule of three supplementaries.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I would like to say only one thing, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is related to Assam. This is related to the sovereignty of our country. I want to just ask...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think you are making the point fairly. Please do not interrupt Question Hour. I request you. If you want a discussion on the subject, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, in the last Winter Session, the hon. Home Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, I will not take that question and will not request the Minister to answer it.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I want to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: What steps have been taken by the Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this question will not be answered. Question No. 123

वस्त्र-उद्योग में पूंजी-निवेश

*123. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा**:
श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी:††

क्या **वस्त्र मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 2004 से 2008 तक की अवधि के दौरान, देश में वस्त्र-उद्योग में अत्यधिक पूंजी-निवेश किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 2004 तथा वर्ष 2008 के अंत तक वस्त्र-उद्योग में कितनी-कितनी पूंजी का निवेश किया गया था;

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††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी द्वारा पूछा गया ।